

over 125 submissions where the students described their favorite moment in South Carolina history.

Helen Miller, a third grade student at Brennen Elementary School in Columbia, wrote a winning essay on the Revolutionary Battle of Charleston that took place in 1780. Jack Hinchey, a third grade student at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, wrote his winning essay on the pirate Blackbeard.

I appreciate all of the other schools that submitted essays to the "Smiling Faces, Beautiful Places" essay competition: Pontiac Elementary, Chapin Elementary, Gilbert Elementary, Forts Pond, Timmerman, Lake Carolina, Midway, and Round Top Elementary.

I am inspired to represent so many remarkable young people and dedicated educators in the Second Congressional District, and I was humbled to receive so many submissions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HOUSING CRISIS

(Ms. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, despite the ongoing economic recovery that has seen the longest streak of private sector job growth in history, since the 2008 crash, the uneven recovery in housing markets has absolutely crushed the poor and working class and has left homeowners in poor areas underwater and has squeezed renters with a lack of units and high rents.

Shamefully, the GOP-controlled House has been an absentee landlord on this issue, and now we find out that the Republican nominee for President wanted the crash because it would be a good thing for rich guys like him to make more money. Maybe that is why the now-failed Trump Mortgage pushed subprime loans.

The American people deserve a Congress and a President who will keep them in their houses and in their homes.

SOCIAL SECURITY MAIL ACT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Social Security has made no bones about how important it is for Americans to safeguard their Social Security numbers. Beneficiaries are warned time and again to protect their cards in order to avoid identity theft.

But commonsense safety measures should also be taken by Social Security. Unfortunately, the inspector general's recent report found that this agency is failing Americans in a very dangerous way. How so?

The Social Security Administration is including your Social Security num-

ber on the documents it mails. That means any lost or stolen letter from Social Security endangers the security of a beneficiary's identity.

This bad practice needs to stop now, and as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security, I am working to fix it. In fact, this week I will introduce the Social Security MAIL Act. It is a commonsense solution to a problem that shouldn't exist. Let's get it done.

HOW THE WORLD'S LEADING SUPERPOWER SHOULD CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what it is, but something is wrong with us. It makes me sick to my stomach to see a Presidential campaign that is an embarrassment to most thinking Americans.

I can't imagine any parent with good sense who would say to his or her child: Why don't you look at the Presidential election. Look and learn as to how to debate. Learn how to disagree with someone and remain on a high level.

This is disgusting and it is embarrassing. I just hope the American public is not okay with this. This is not the way the world's leading superpower should conduct its business.

The whole world is watching us, and we are watching TV, looking at the worst kinds of things that could be said by human beings from the United States of America. I certainly hope that the American people are not happy with what is going on.

NO MORE EXCUSES FROM TSA

(Mr. ZELDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, why does it seem like no one at an airport security checkpoint has been delegated with that awesome, yet shockingly absent, power of common sense? Why is the 80-year-old granny in a wheelchair being harassed? Why is the U.S. military servicemember in uniform with a military ID on military orders having his or her toothpaste confiscated?

As the management and resource allocation issues rise that are plaguing the bureaucracy at the TSA, red flags are going up with the peak travel season nearly upon us. Some airline passengers report wait times of as long as 2 or 3 hours to get through security.

Long lines will only get longer if the TSA doesn't pursue a course correction, that of coordinating with airport authorities and airlines to ensure that staffing levels match peak travel times.

If you have four lanes being occupied and if you have a long wait, maybe you should occupy some more of the avail-

able security lanes. Allow law enforcement to do its law enforcement duties to free up more screeners to screen.

Airlines can do their part by knocking off the madness with the hidden baggage fees. The trick might help fill seats on planes, but it is resulting in more people taking their baggage through security.

By the way, the TSA doesn't have a funding issue. Last year this Congress gave it more than it asked for. No one wants to hear the TSA's excuses.

CELEBRATING GENE CONNOLLY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Gene Connolly, the principal of Concord High School—my alma mater—in Concord, New Hampshire, who will be retiring from his position at the end of this school year.

Over the past 14 years, Principal Connolly has served at the helm of Concord High School, helping to lead the school to multiple State championships and new academic heights. If it weren't for his diagnosis of ALS in July of 2014, there is no doubt that Principal Connolly would continue to serve the students of Concord High.

I had the privilege of meeting with Principal Connolly just last week in D.C. when he came to Congress to advocate for legislation to support ALS patients. It is a testament to his unparalleled leadership and courage that, even in the face of extreme adversity, Principal Connolly is spending his time in advocating for legislation that will benefit ALS patients in the future. He has changed the lives of generations of Concord students.

While we are all sad that Principal Connolly's tenure will come to a close this summer, there is no doubt that his leadership, his courage, and his spirit will continue to inspire future generations of students at Concord High and beyond.

BERTA SOLER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise that President Obama has agreed to arm Communist Vietnam and that he continues to extend diplomatic niceties and concessions to authoritarian regimes that show no intention of changing their brutal tactics.

These overtures to the Castros in Cuba have resulted in a prominent human rights defender, Berta Soler—right here in this poster—the leader of the peaceful prodemocracy group, the Ladies in White—Las Damas de Blanco—and 27 others being arrested this week and facing charges of resistance

because only in Communist regimes and under ruthless dictatorships is nonviolent opposition to the regime considered a crime. Peaceful dissidence, resistance, is a crime in Cuba.

For all of the engagement—the concession after concession to the ruthless dictatorship—it has not moved the Castros even 1 inch toward freedom, toward human rights, toward the rule of law, toward democracy.

The people of Cuba deserve better.

TRUMP MORTGAGE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that the Republican presumptive nominee, Donald Trump, actually rooted for the collapse of the housing market just before the Great Recession wrecked our economy.

In 2007, before the crash, Donald Trump said he was excited about the housing market crash because “I’ve always made more money in bad markets than in good markets.”

Today we don’t know if he made money or not because, unlike Presidential candidates for decades, Donald Trump refuses to release his income tax returns. In fact, there is one report that suggests that he paid no income taxes in 1 year.

Even worse, his own company, Trump Mortgage, actually pushed people into subprime mortgages. Millions of people lost their homes in the housing crisis, and 8.4 million Americans lost their jobs, but Donald Trump was the winner.

He is doing what he does best—putting himself above everybody else. He does not want to make America great. Donald Trump wants to make Donald Trump richer.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the first freedom mentioned in our Constitution is the free exercise of religion. The Founders understood the universal right to seek God in accordance with one’s conscience and, also, that many sought refuge on these shores because of religious persecution.

Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers, Catholics—these were just some of the groups who fled persecution. In the old country, in the old days, exercising one’s faith could result in lost business opportunities and other forms of discrimination. Some faced imprisonment and even death. The Founders knew that history and sought to guarantee that this new Federal Government would not allow such injustice.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, today we are seeing laws, rules, executive orders, and court rulings at different levels of government force some people to

choose between following their consciences and pursuing their livelihoods. Such a choice is exactly what the penal laws of 18th century Ireland presented to Catholics in that country: abandon your faith or face severe hardship.

Forcing such a choice is at odds with explicit, fundamental, constitutional liberties and basic human rights. The intolerance of religious freedom will not—cannot—stand in our Nation.

□ 1215

NEVADANS DEMAND APOLOGY

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Nevadans to demand an apology from presumptive Republican Presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

Last week, news reports revealed that Donald Trump actually bragged about being able to make a lot of money from a housing market that was about to burst. He rooted for that bubble to burst.

Well, the crash of the housing market devastated my hometown of Las Vegas, which was one of the hardest hit in the country. Thousands lost their homes, and 71 percent of homes were underwater, some by over 50 percent. Bank foreclosures put families on the street who had already lost their jobs and their savings.

Slowly we are coming back, though. We have reformed lending policies, demanded accountability, and worked to ensure that families can keep a roof over their heads, but we remember how awful it was.

So we say to Mr. Trump: Keep your short fingers out of the Nevada housing market.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM E. TROXELL

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor William E. Troxell on his May 31, 2016, retirement as mayor of the borough of Gettysburg.

Mr. Troxell was born in Gettysburg and is a direct descendant of John Troxell, the first settler of Gettysburg. Mr. Troxell is a World War II veteran and served 12 years in the United States Army Reserve.

William is best known, however, as Mayor Troxell of Gettysburg, a position he has held since 1997 and performed with zeal, professionalism, and class. William has left an enduring legacy of service to Gettysburg and our Nation.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s Fourth Congressional District and a grateful

nation, I am proud and humbled to congratulate William E. Troxell on his retirement and wish him great health, happiness, and prosperity in his future adventures.

PORT SPENDING TARGETS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the Panama Canal expansion is set to open next month, posing challenges for many of our Nation’s ports. That is why it is more important than ever that our ports have the funding that they need to prepare for the future and stay globally competitive.

Since coming to Congress, I have led an effort to ensure that money collected at our Nation’s ports in the harbor maintenance tax be spent at our Nation’s ports. We have set up a glide path to get us to 100 percent spending of the funding by 2025, and each year we have a target to get closer to that goal.

This week, we are voting on the energy and water appropriations bill on the floor, and I want to thank the leadership of the Appropriations Committee—Chairmen ROGERS and SIMPSON and Ranking Members LOWEY and KAPTUR—for recognizing the importance of port spending targets.

This year \$1.2 billion is set to go back to our ports and our port communities, making it the third year in a row that we have hit our target. I am proud of this continued achievement. This funding will go to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, where I come from, and also to ports across this country to create construction jobs and economic opportunities for decades to come.

COLUMNIST MAKES FALSE CLIMATE CHANGE CLAIMS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently a prominent New York Times columnist recycled disproven assertions to criticize businessman Donald Trump’s views on climate change. This type of alarmist rhetoric is what we have come to expect from liberal pundits and the media, but science doesn’t back the columnist’s claims.

Extreme weather events are not getting weirder. There is no evidence that weather events such as hurricanes, tornados, droughts, and floods have increased in number due to climate change.

Last year, at the Paris climate conference, the President said that fish swim in the streets of Miami because of a downpour caused by climate change. He was immediately contradicted by his own government agency that said the flooding was due to lunar cycles, not climate change.

Climate alarmists should speak the truth, not try to promote a political agenda.